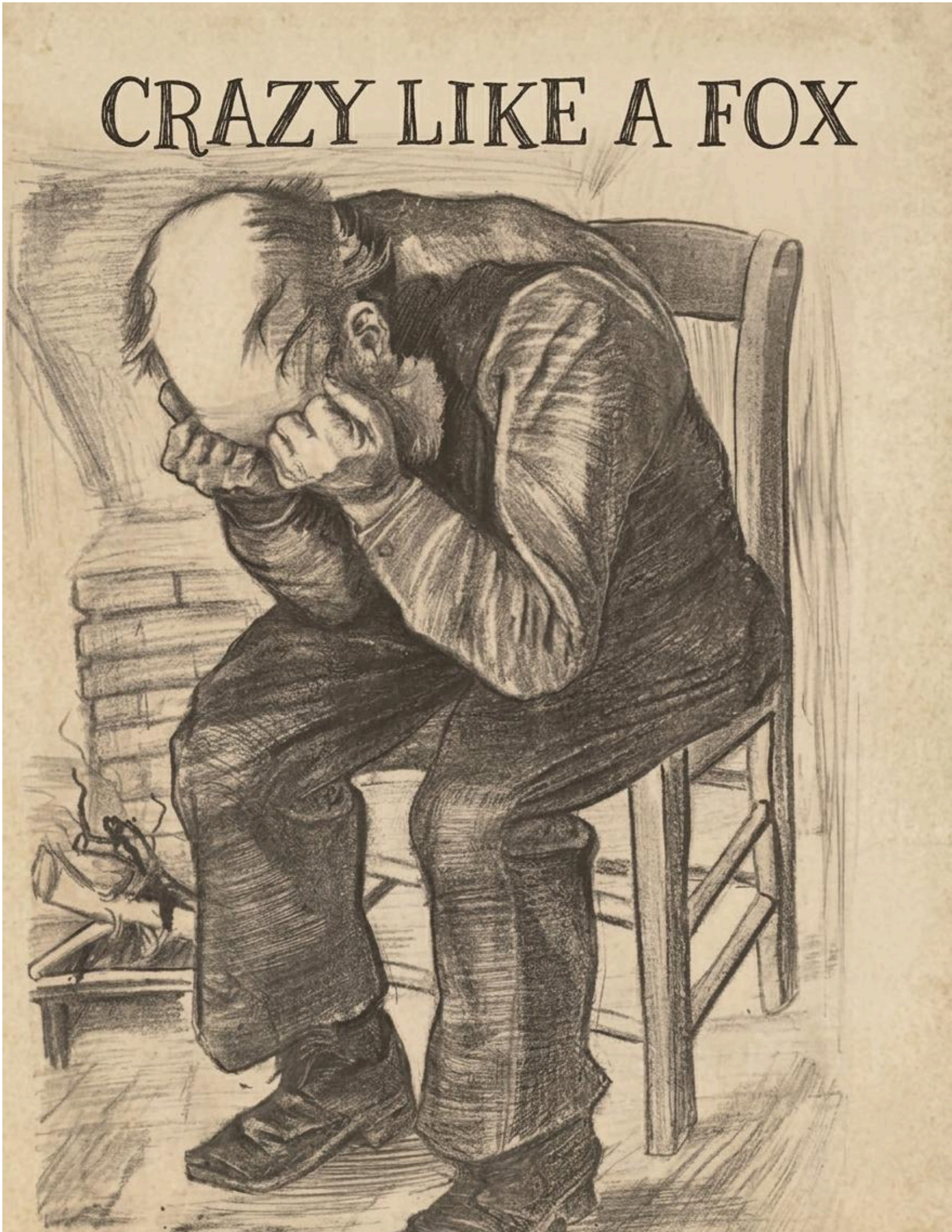
CRAZY LIKE A FOX



CRAZY LIKE A FOX

"Today's lectionary contains two of my favorite scriptures. The first is 1 Corinthians chapter 1, verses 17 through 25... Saint Paul talks about the foolishness of the cross... [and] Matthew 25 [verses] 1 through 13... the parable about the lamps and the virgins."

"The Lord can use what is foolish in the eyes of men... to communicate deep wisdom..."

"We must, I must call on a wisdom that is higher and more powerful than my own common sense."

"What is the foolishness of the cross? What is the word of the cross? It is a dead man on a tree."

"If there [were a] phrase that could easily explain the word of the cross, then we wouldn't need a dead man on a tree."

"Christ's word is his silence because of his death. And the way that we learn the wisdom of the cross is by contemplating the cross and going deeper and deeper into that mystery."

"[T]his is a stumbling block for some, it's it's foolishness to some, but to those of us who are on this path... it is the power of God and the wisdom of God."

"The fact that we look to this dead man on a tree for wisdom, it just sounds crazy... ridiculous and scandalous."

"All the wisdom of people did not lead them to know God. God decided to use foolishness to save those who have faith."

"God says in this passage, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the learning of the learned I will set aside.'"

"If you're following common sense every day... then your wisdom is going to be destroyed because you're not following God."

"The worldly wisdom that people are pursuing leads to despair and emptiness and futility..."

"Sometimes I find myself in situations where it's not clear what the next step is. There are two options or three options, and whichever one I choose makes the other two worse."

"What do you do in that situation?"

"We're trying to problem-solve. We're trying to work the problem... [T]aking the bull by the horns in any given situation means you're probably going to make poor decisions."

"I say to the Lord like, 'Okay, Lord, like here I am, you know the situation... I'll do whatever you want.' You know, there's a surrender."

"There's a peace in knowing that whatever the result, whatever happens when I'm in that... triangle..."

"I'm not saying at all be passive or give up or ignore the problem... What I have to do is surrender and listen."

"Sometimes your waiting and your depending on the Lord means that your actions look nuts to some people, even scandalous."

"This is not a situation where God needs company, and he wants us to come visit him in the nursing home and let him tell us stories about his life."

"This is about having a relationship with a doctor, with a healer who can heal our wounded ways of coping, our wounded decision-making criteria."

"To me, the oil is the ongoing relationship. To me, the oil is... do I have an open line of communication with my spiritual healer, who is Christ?"

"The oil is the connection with Christ... the love that comes forth out of the relationship with Christ, which allows one to persist while in the midst of a triangle where there's no right

answer. The practices are like going to the market to get the oil."

"You never know when a crisis is going to hit. And so you need to have that extra oil ready to go."

"If you have a situation where it's not a regular day, it's a crisis... you're going to go try to like maybe build a spiritual life on the fly, and in the process you're going to learn that... it's too late."

"In order to have that firm relationship, you have to start now."

"They came back and the Lord said... 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Why did he not know them? Because they weren't praying to him. They weren't listening to him."

"Prayer is not, primarily, about asking for things and stuff. It's about abiding. It's about communing with Christ."

"Pray that rosary, pray [those] prayer ropes, read those lectionaries."

"If you're faithful with a small amount, you'll be given a big amount to manage."

"Therefore stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

"You may be in one of those situations where no matter what you do, you're not going to be able to solve all the problems. And so you just have to wait. And you have to surrender."

"You already know him, and so you're not scrambling and overwhelmed. You have that life ring. You have that trust... at least you're communing with him [and He can communicate to you what He desires]."

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